UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS
OF THE CHILD

RESERVATIONS, DECLARATIONS AND OBJECTIONS RELATING TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

As at 31 July 1991, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been ratified or acceded to by 93 States. In addition, 46 States had signed the Convention.

The list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, is contained in chapter I to the present document.

Chapter II contains the texts of reservations and declarations (part A) and objections to reservations and declarations (part B) made by States with respect to the Convention since its entry into force, i.e. from 2 September 1990 to 31 July 1991.

I. LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE SIGNED, RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AS AT 31 JULY 1991

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/
Afghanistan	27 September 1990	
Albania	26 January 1990	
Algeria	26 January 1990	
Angola	14 February 1990	5 December 1990
Antigua and Barbuda	12 March 1991	
Argentina	29 June 1990	4 December 1990
Australia	22 August 1990	17 December 1990
Austria	26 January 1990	
Bahamas	30 October 1990	20 February 1991
Barbados	19 April 1990	9 October 1990
Bangladesh	26 January 1990	3 August 1990
Belgium	26 January 1990	
Belize	2 March 1990	2 May 1990
Benin	25 April 1990	3 August 1990
Bhutan	4 June 1990	1 August 1990
Bolivia	8 March 1990	26 June 1990
Brazil	26 January 1990	24 September 1990
Bulgaria	31 May 1990	3 June 1991
Burkina Faso	26 January 1990	31 August 1990
Burundi	8 May 1990	19 October 1990
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics	26 January 1990	1 October 1990
Cameroon	25 September 1990	
Canada	28 May 1990	
Central African Republic	30 July 1990	
Chad	30 September 1990	2 October 1990
Chile	26 January 1990	13 August 1990
China	29 August 1990	
Colombia	26 January 1990	28 January 1991
Comoros	30 September 1990	

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a/ Accession.

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/
Costa Rica	26 January 1990	21 August 1990
Côte d'Ivoire	26 January 1990	4 February 1991
Cuba	26 January 1990	
Cyprus	5 October 1990	7 February 1991
Czeck and Slovak Federal Republic	30 September 1990	7 January 1991
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	23 August 1990	21 September 1990
Denmark	26 January 1990	11 July 1991
Djibouti	30 September 1990	6 December 1990
Dominica	26 January 1990	13 March 1991
Dominican Republic	8 August 1990	11 June 1991
Ecuador	26 January 1990	23 March 1990
Egypt	5 February 1990	6 July 1990
El Salvador	26 January 1990	10 July 1990
Ethiopia		14 May 1991 a/
Finland	26 January 1990	20 June 1991
France	26 January 1990	7 August 1990
Gabon	26 January 1990	
Gambia	5 February 1990	8 August 1990
Germany*	26 January 1990	
Ghana	29 January 1990	5 February 1990
Greece	26 January 1990	
Grenada	21 February 1990	5 November 1990
Guatemala	26 January 1990	6 June 1990

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* Through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany will act in the United Nations under the designation "Germany". The former German Democratic Republic signed and ratified the Convention on 7 March 1990 and 2 October 1990 respectively.

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/
Guinea		13 July 1990 a/
Guinea Bissau	26 January 1990	20 August 1990
Guyana	30 September 1990	14 January 1991
Haiti	26 January 1990	
Holy See	20 April 1990	20 April 1990
Honduras	31 May 1990	10 August 1990
Hungary	14 March 1990	
Iceland	26 January 1990	
Indonesia	26 January 1990	5 September 1990
Ireland	30 September 1990	
Israel	3 July 1990	
Italy	26 January 1990	
Jamaica	26 January 1990	14 May 1991
Japan	21 September 1990	
Jordan	29 August 1990	24 May 1991
Kenya	26 January 1990	30 July 1990
Kuwait	7 June 1990	
Lao People's Democratic Republic		8 May 1991 a/
Lebanon	26 January 1990	14 May 1991
Lesotho	21 August 1990	
Liberia	26 April 1990	
Liechtenstein	30 September 1990	
Luxembourg	21 March 1990	
Madagascar	19 April 1990	19 March 1991
Malawi		2 January 1991 a/
Maldives	21 August 1990	11 February 1991
Mali	26 January 1990	20 September 1990
Malta	26 January 1990	30 September 1990
Mauritania	26 January 1990	16 May 1991
Mauritius		26 July 1990 a/
Mexico	26 January 1990	21 September 1990
Mongolia	26 January 1990	5 July 1990

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/
Morocco	26 January 1990	
Mozambique	30 September 1990	
Myanmar		15 July 1991 a/
Namibia	26 September 1990	30 September 1990
Nepal	26 January 1990	14 September 1990
Netherlands	26 January 1990	
New Zealand	1 October 1990	
Nicaragua	6 February 1990	5 October 1990
Niger	26 January 1990	30 September 1990
Nigeria	26 January 1990	19 April 1991
Norway	26 January 1990	8 January 1991
Pakistan	20 September 1990	12 November 1990
Panama	26 January 1990	12 December 1990
Papua New Guinea	30 September 1990	
Paraguay	4 April 1990	25 September 1990
Peru	26 January 1990	4 September 1990
Philippines	26 January 1990	21 August 1990
Poland	26 January 1990	7 June 1991
Portugal	26 January 1990	21 September 1990
Republic of Korea	25 September 1990	
Romania	26 January 1990	28 September 1990
Rwanda	26 January 1990	24 January 1991
Saint Kitts and Nevis	26 January 1990	24 July 1990
Saint Lucia	30 September 1990	
Samoa	30 September 1990	
Sao Tomé and Principe		14 May 1991 a/
Senegal	26 January 1990	31 July 1990
Seychelles		7 September 1990 a/
Sierra Leone	13 February 1990	18 June 1990
Spain	26 January 1990	6 December 1990
Sri Lanka	26 January 1990	12 July 1991
Sudan	24 July 1990	3 August 1990
Suriname	21 February 1990	
Swaziland	22 August 1990	

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/
Sweden	26 January 1990	29 June 1990
Switzerland	1 May 1991	
Syrian Arab Republic	18 September 1990	
Togo	26 January 1990	1 August 1990
Trinidad and Tobago	30 September 1990	
Tunisia	26 February 1990	
Turkey	14 September 1990	
Uganda	17 August 1990	17 August 1990
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	21 February 1990	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	26 January 1990	16 August 1990
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	19 April 1990	
United Republic of Tanzania	1 June 1990	10 June 1991
Uruguay	26 January 1990	20 November 1990
Vanuatu	30 September 1990	
Venezuela	26 January 1990	13 September 1990
Viet Nam	26 January 1990	28 February 1990
Yemen	13 February 1990	1 May 1991
Yugoslavia	26 January 1990	3 January 1991
Zaire	20 March 1990	27 September 1990
Zambia	30 September 1990	
Zimbabwe	8 March 1990	11 September 1990

II. TEXTS OF DECLARATIONS, RESERVATIONS AND OBJECTIONS

AFGHANISTAN

Upon signature

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan reserves the right to express, upon ratifying the Convention, reservations on all provisions of the Convention that are incompatible with the laws of Islamic Shariah and the local legislation in effect.

ARGENTINA

Upon signature

Reservation

The Argentine Republic enters a reservation to subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and declares that those subparagraphs shall not apply in areas within its jurisdiction because, in its view, before they can be applied a strict mechanism must exist for the legal protection of children in matters of intercountry adoption, in order to prevent trafficking in and the sale of children.

Declarations

Concerning article 1 of the Convention, the Argentine Republic declares that the article must be interpreted to the effect that a child means every human being from the moment of conception up to the age of 18.

Concerning article 38 of the Convention, the Argentine Republic declares that it would have liked the Convention categorically to prohibit the use of children in armed conflicts; such a prohibition exists in its domestic law which, by virtue of article 41 of the Convention, it shall continue to apply in this regard.

Upon ratification

Reservation

The Argentine Republic enters a reservation to subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and declares that those subparagraphs shall not apply in areas within its jurisdiction because, in its view, before they can be applied a strict mechanism must exist for the legal protection of children in matters of intercountry adoption, in order to prevent trafficking in and the sale of children.

Declarations

Concerning article 1 of the Convention, the Argentine Republic declares that the article must be interpreted to the effect that a child means every human being from the moment of conception up to the age of 18.

Concerning subparagraph (f) of article 24 of the Convention, the Argentine Republic considers that questions relating to family planning are the exclusive concern of parents in accordance with ethical and moral principles and understands it to be a State obligation, under this article, to adopt measures providing guidance for parents and education for responsible parenthood.

Concerning article 38 of the Convention, the Argentine Republic declares that it would have liked the Convention categorically to prohibit the use of children in armed conflicts; such a prohibition exists in its domestic law which, by virtue of article 41 of the Convention, it shall continue to apply in this regard.

AUSTRALIA

Upon ratification

Australia accepts the general principles of article 37. In relation to the second sentence of paragraph (c), the obligation to separate children from adults in prison is accepted only to the extent that such imprisonment is considered by the responsible authorities to be feasible and consistent with the obligation that children be able to maintain contact with their families, having regard to the geography and demography of Australia. Australia, therefore, ratifies the Convention to the extent that it is unable to comply with the obligation imposed by article 37 (c).

BAHAMAS

Upon signature and confirmed upon ratification

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas upon signing the Convention reserves the right not to apply the provisions of article 2 of the said Convention in so far as those provisions relate to the conferment of citizenship upon a child having regard to the provisions of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

BANGLADESH

Upon ratification

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh hereby enter our reservations on article 14, paragraph 1.

Also, article 21 would apply subject to the existing laws and practices in Bangladesh.

COLOMBIA

Upon signature

The Government of Colombia considers that, while the minimum age of 15 years for taking part in armed conflicts, set forth in article 38 of the Convention, is the outcome of serious negotiations which reflect various legal, political and cultural systems in the world, it would have been preferable to fix that age at 18 years in accordance with the principles and norms prevailing in various regions and countries, Colombia among them, for which reason the Government of Colombia, for the purposes of article 38 of the Convention, shall construe the age in question to be 18 years.

Upon ratification

The Government of Colombia, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1 (d), of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1909, declares that for the purposes of article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989, the age referred to in said paragraphs shall be understood to be 18 years, given the fact that, under Colombian law, the minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces of personnel called for military service is 18 years.

CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Upon ratification

The Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic interprets the provision of article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention as follows:

In cases of irrevocable adoptions, which are based on the principle of anonymity of such adoptions, and of artificial fertilization, where the physician charged with the operation is required to ensure that the husband and wife on the one hand and the donor on the other remain unknown to each other, the non-communication of a natural parent's name or natural parents' names to the child is not in contradiction with this provision.

DENMARK

Upon ratification

Until further notice the Convention shall not apply to Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Article 40, paragraph 2 (b) (v) shall not be binding on Denmark:

It is a fundamental principle in the Danish Administration of Justice Act that everybody shall be entitled to have any penal measures imposed on him or her by a court of first instance reviewed by a higher court. There are, however, some provisions limiting this right in certain cases, for instance verdicts returned by a jury on the question of guilt, which have not been reversed by the legally trained judges of the court.

DJIBOUTI

Upon ratification

[The Government of the Republic of Djibouti] hereby formally declares its accession to the Convention and pledges, on behalf of the Republic of Djibouti, to adhere to it conscientiously and at all times, except that it shall not consider itself bound by any provisions or articles that are incompatible with its religion and its traditional values.

ECUADOR

Upon signature

In signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Ecuador reaffirms the points made in the statement delivered by Ambassador José Ayala Lasso under agenda item 108 in the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 14 November 1989, particularly as concerns the interpretation to be given to article 24, in the light of the preamble of the Convention, and article 38.

Ecuador believes that the ninth preambular paragraph should be borne in mind in interpreting the Convention, especially its article 24. In the view of Ecuador, the minimum age set in article 38 is too low.

EGYPT

Upon signature and confirmed upon ratification

The Arab Republic of Egypt.

Considering that the Islamic Shariah is the fundamental source of legislation in Egyptian positive law and that, under the said Shariah, it is obligatory to provide all means of protection and care to children by diverse ways and means, not including, however, the system of adoption established in certain other bodies of positive law.

Expresses its reservation with respect to all the clauses and provisions relating to adoption in this Convention, and in particular to those parts of articles 20 and 21 of the Convention which concern adoption.

FRANCE

Upon signature and confirmed upon ratification

Declaration

The Government of the French Republic declares that this Convention, particularly article 6, cannot be interpreted as constituting any obstacle to the implementation of the provisions of French legislation relating to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy.

The Government of the Republic declares that, in the light of article 2 of the Constitution of the French Republic, article 30 is not applicable in so far as the Republic is concerned.

Reservation

The Government of the Republic construes article 40, paragraph 2 (b) (v), as establishing a general principle to which limited exceptions may be made under law. This is particularly the case for certain non-appealable offences tried by the Police Court and for offences of a criminal nature. None the less, the decisions handed down by the final court of jurisdiction may be appealed before the Court of Cassation, which shall rule on the legality of the decision taken.

GERMANY

Upon signature

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany reserves the right to make, upon ratification, such declarations as it considers necessary, especially with regard to the interpretation of articles 9, 10, 18 and 22*.

GUATEMALA

Upon signature

The State of Guatemala is signing this Convention out of a humanitarian desire to strengthen the ideals on which the Convention is based, and because it is an instrument which seeks to institutionalize, at the global level, specific norms for the protection of children, who, not being legally of age, must be under the guardianship of the family, society and the State.

With reference to article 1 of the Convention, and with the aim of giving legal definition to its signing of the Convention, the Government of Guatemala declares that article 3 of its Political Constitution establishes that: "the State guarantees and protects human life from the time of its conception, as well as the integrity and security of the individual.".

HOLY SEE

Upon ratification

Reservation

The Holy See, in conformity with the dispositions of article 51, [ratifies] the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the following reservations:

(a) That it interprets the phrase "Family planning education and services" in article 24.2 to mean only those methods of family planning which it considers morally acceptable, that is, the natural methods of family planning;

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* See footnote contained in Chapter I, page ...

(b) That it interprets the articles of the Convention in a way which safeguards the primary and inalienable rights of parents, in particular in so far as these rights concern education (articles 13 and 28), religion (article 14), association with others (article 15) and privacy (article 16);

(c) That the application of the Convention be compatible in practice with the particular nature of the Vatican City State and of the sources of its objective law (art. 1, Law of 7 June 1929, n. 11) and, in consideration of its limited extent, with its legislation in the matters of citizenship, access and residence.

Declaration

The Holy See regards the present Convention as a proper and laudable instrument aimed at protecting the rights and interest of children, who are "that precious treasure given to each generation as a challenge to its wisdom and humanity" (Pope John Paul II, 26 April 1984).

The Holy See recognizes that the Convention represents an enactment of principles previously adopted by the United Nations and, once effective as a ratified instrument, will safeguard the rights of the child before as well as after birth, as expressly affirmed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959) and restated in the ninth preambular paragraph of the Convention. The Holy See remains confident that the ninth preambular paragraph will serve as the perspective through which the rest of the convention will be interpreted, in conformity with article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969.

By acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Holy See intends to give renewed expression to its constant concern for the well-being of children and families. In consideration of its singular nature and position, the Holy See, in acceding to this Convention, does not intend to prescind in any way from its specific mission which is of a religious and moral character.

INDONESIA

Upon ratification

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia guarantees the fundamental rights of the child irrespective of its sex, ethnic origin or race. The Constitution prescribes those rights to be implemented by national laws and regulations.

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Republic of Indonesia does not imply the acceptance of obligations going beyond the constitutional limits nor the acceptance of any obligation to introduce any right beyond those prescribed under the Constitution.

With reference to the provisions of articles 1, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 29 of this Convention, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia declares that it will apply these articles in conformity with its Constitution.

IRELAND

Upon signature

Ireland reserves the right to make, when ratifying the Convention, such declarations or reservations as it may consider necessary.

JORDAN

Upon ratification

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expresses its reservation and does not consider itself bound by articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Convention, which grant the child the right to freedom of choice of religion and concern the question of adoption, since they are at variance with the precepts of the tolerant Islamic Shariah.

KUWAIT

Upon signature

[Kuwait expresses] reservations on all provisions of the Convention that are incompatible with the laws of Islamic Shariah and the local statutes in effect.

MALDIVES

Upon signature

Since the Islamic Shariah is one of the fundamental sources of Maldivian Law and since Islamic Shariah does not include the system of adoption among the ways and means for the protection and care of children contained in Shariah, the Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservations with respect to all the clauses and provisions relating to adoption in the said Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservation to paragraph 1 of article 14 of the said Convention on the Rights of the Child, since the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Maldives stipulate that all Maldivians should be Muslims.

MALI

Upon ratification

The Government of the Republic of Mali declares that, in view of the provisions of the Mali Family Code, there is no reason to apply article 16 of the Convention.

MALTA

Upon ratification

Article 26 - The Government of Malta is bound by the obligations arising out of this article to the extent of present social security legislation.

MAURITANIA

Upon signature

In signing this important Convention, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is making reservations to articles or provisions which may be contrary to the beliefs and values of Islam, the religion of the Mauritanian people and State.

MAURITIUS

Upon accession

The Government of Mauritius, having considered the Convention on the Rights of the Child hereby accedes to it with express reservation with regard to article 22 of the said Convention.

MYANMAR

Upon accession

Article 15

The Union of Myanmar interprets the expression "the law" in article 15, paragraph 2, to mean the laws, as well as the decrees and executive orders having the force of law, which are for the time being in force in the Union of Myanmar.

The Union of Myanmar understands that such restrictions on freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly imposed in conformity with the said laws, decrees and executive orders as are required by the exigencies of the situation obtaining in the Union of Myanmar are permissible under article 15, paragraph 2.

The Union of Myanmar interprets the expression "national security" in the same paragraph as encompassing the supreme national interest, namely, the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-distintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of national sovereignty, which constitute the paramount national causes of the Union of Myanmar.

Article 37

The Union of Myanmar accepts in principle the provisions of article 37 as they are in consonance with its laws, rules, regulations, procedures and practice as well as with its traditional, cultural and religious values. However, having regard to the exigencies of the situation obtaining in the country at present, the Union of Myanmar states as follows:

Nothing contained in article 37 shall prevent, or be construed as preventing, the Government of the Union of Myanmar from assuming or exercising, in conformity with the laws for the time being in force in the country and the procedures established thereunder, such powers as are required by the exigencies of the situation for the preservation and strengthening of the rule of law, the maintenance of public order (ordre public) and, in particular, the protection of the supreme national interest, namely, the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of national sovereignty, which constitute the paramount national causes of the Union of Myanmar.

Such powers shall include the powers of arrest, detention, imprisonment, exclusion, interrogation, enquiry and investigation.

NORWAY

Upon ratification

The instrument of ratification by the Government of Norway contains a reservation in respect of article 40, paragraph 2 (b), (v), in accordance with article 51, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

PAKISTAN

Upon signature and confirmed upon ratification

The provisions of the Convention shall be interpreted in the light of the principle of Islamic laws and values.

POLAND

Upon ratification

Reservations

In ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989, the Republic of Poland, in accordance with the provision contained in article 51, paragraph 1, of the Convention, registers the following reservations:

- With respect to article 7 of the Convention, the Republic of Poland stipulates that the right of an adopted child to know its natural parents shall be subject to the limitations imposed by binding legal arrangements that enable adoptive parents to maintain the confidentiality of the child's origin;

- The law of the Republic of Poland shall determine the age from which call-up to military or similar service and participation in military operations are permissible. That age limit may not be lower than the age limit set out in article 38 of the Convention.

Declarations

- The Republic of Poland considers that a child's rights as defined in the Convention, in particular the rights defined in articles 12 to 16, shall be exercised with respect for parental authority, in accordance with Polish customs and traditions regarding the place of the child within and outside the family;

- With respect to article 24, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, the Republic of Poland considers that family planning and education services for parents should be in keeping with the principles of morality.

SPAIN

Upon ratification

Spain understands that article 21, paragraph (d), of the Convention may never be construed to permit financial benefits other than those needed to cover strictly necessary expenditure which may have arisen from the adoption of children residing in another country.

Spain, wishing to make common cause with those States and humanitarian organizations which have manifested their disagreement with the contents of article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention, also wishes to express its disagreement with the age limit fixed therein and to declare that the said limit appears insufficient, by permitting the recruitment and participation in armed conflict of children having attained the age of 15 years.

TURKEY

Upon signature

The Republic of Turkey reserves the right to interpret and apply the provisions of articles 17, 29 and 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child according to the latter and the spirit of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and those of the Treaty of Lausanne of 24 July 1923.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Upon signature

The United Kingdom reserves the right to formulate, upon ratifying the Convention, any reservations or interpretative declarations which it might consider necessary.

URUGUAY

Upon signature

On signing this Convention, Uruguay, reaffirms the right to make reservations upon ratification, if it considers it appropriate.

Upon ratification

With reference to the Declaration submitted on the occasion of the signing, on 26 January 1990, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by that Government on 6 December 1989, the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay affirms, in regard to the provisions of article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, that in accordance with Uruguayan law it would have been desirable for the lower age limit for taking a direct part in hostilities in the event of an armed conflict to be set at 18 years instead of 15 years as provided in the Convention.

Furthermore, the Government of Uruguay declares that, in the exercise of its sovereign will, it will not authorize any persons under its jurisdiction who have not attained the age of 18 years to take a direct part in hostilities and will not under any circumstances recruit persons who have not attained the age of 18 years.

VENEZUELA

Upon ratification

Article 21 (b):

The Government of Venezuela understands this provision as referring to international adoption and in no circumstnaces to placement in a foster home outside the country. It is also its view that the provision cannot be interpreted to the detriment of the State's obligation to ensure due protection of the child.

Article 21 (d):

The Government of Venezuela takes the position that neither the adoption nor the placement of children should in any circumstances result in financial gain for those in any way involved in it.

Article 30:

The Government of Venezuela takes the position that this article must be interpreted as a case in which article 2 of the Convention applies.

YUGOSLAVIA

Upon ratification

The competent authorities (ward authorities) of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia may, under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, make decisions to deprive parents of their right to raise their children and give them an upbringing without prior judicial determination in accordance with the internal legislation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

B. Objections to reservations and declarations

CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

[3 June 1991]

The Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic takes an objection to the reservations entered by the Government of the State of Kuwait to the Convention of the Rights of the Child as these reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. In the opinion of the Czechoslovak Government the said reservations are in contradiction to the generally recognized principle of international law according to which a State cannot invoke the provisions of its own internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty obligation. Therefore, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic does not recognize these reservations as valid.

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE COVENANT

Initial reports of States parties due in 1992

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 44, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States parties undertake to submit to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights, within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned.

2. Accordingly, initial reports under article 44, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are due in 1992 from 57 States parties on the following dates:

State party	Date due
Bangladesh	1 September 1992
Belize	1 September 1992
Benin	1 September 1992
Bhutan	1 September 1992
Bolivia	1 September 1992

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State party	Date due
Ecuador	1 September 1992
Egypt	1 September 1992
El Salvador	1 September 1992
Ghana	1 September 1992
Guatemala	1 September 1992
Guinea	1 September 1992
Holy See	1 September 1992
Kenya	1 September 1992
Mauritius	1 September 1992
Mongolia	1 September 1992
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 September 1992
Senegal	1 September 1992
Sierra Leone	1 September 1992
Sudan	1 September 1992
Sweden	1 September 1992
Togo	1 September 1992
Viet Nam	1 September 1992
France	5 September 1992
Gambia	6 September 1992
Honduras	8 September 1992
Chile	11 September 1992
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	14 September 1992
Uganda	15 September 1992
Guinea-Bissau	18 September 1992
Costa Rica	19 September 1992
Philippines	19 September 1992
Burkina Faso	29 September 1992
Peru	3 October 1992
Indonesia	4 October 1992
Seychelles	6 October 1992
Zimbabwe	10 October 1992
Venezuela	12 October 1992
Nepal	13 October 1992
Mali	19 October 1992
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	20 October 1992
Mexico	20 October 1992
Portugal	20 October 1992
Brazil	23 October 1992
Paraguay	24 October 1992
Zaire	26 October 1992

State party	Date due
Romania	27 October 1992
Malta	29 October 1992
Namibia	29 October 1992
Niger	29 October 1992
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	30 October 1992
Chad	31 October 1992
Nicaragua	3 November 1992
Barbados	7 November 1992
Burundi	17 November 1992
Grenada	4 December 1992
Pakistan	11 December 1992
Uruguay	19 December 1992

3. The reports from States parties listed above will be issued in addenda to this document.

UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.
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9 August 1991

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties due in 1992

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 44, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States parties undertake to submit to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights, within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned.

2. Accordingly, initial reports under article 44, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are due in 1992 from 57 States parties on the following dates:

State party	Date due
Bangladesh	1 September 1992
Belize	1 September 1992
Benin	1 September 1992
Bhutan	1 September 1992
Bolivia	1 September 1992

* Reissued for technical reasons.

State party	Date due
Ecuador	1 September 1992
Egypt	1 September 1992
El Salvador	1 September 1992
Ghana	1 September 1992
Guatemala	1 September 1992
Guinea	1 September 1992
Holy See	1 September 1992
Kenya	1 September 1992
Mauritius	1 September 1992
Mongolia	1 September 1992
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 September 1992
Senegal	1 September 1992
Sierra Leone	1 September 1992
Sudan	1 September 1992
Sweden	1 September 1992
Togo	1 September 1992
Viet Nam	1 September 1992
France	5 September 1992
Gambia	6 September 1992
Honduras	8 September 1992
Chile	11 September 1992
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	14 September 1992
Uganda	15 September 1992
Guinea-Bissau	18 September 1992
Costa Rica	19 September 1992
Philippines	19 September 1992
Burkina Faso	29 September 1992
Peru	3 October 1992
Indonesia	4 October 1992
Seychelles	6 October 1992
Zimbabwe	10 October 1992
Venezuela	12 October 1992
Nepal	13 October 1992
Mali	19 October 1992
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	20 October 1992
Mexico	20 October 1992
Portugal	20 October 1992
Brazil	23 October 1992
Paraguay	24 October 1992
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State party	Date due
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Nicaragua	3 November 1992
Barbados	7 November 1992
Burundi	17 November 1992
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3. The reports from States parties listed above will be issued in addenda to this document.

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CRC

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE*

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* Adopted by the Committee at its 2nd meeting (first session).

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PART ONE. GENERAL RULES

I. SESSIONS

Meetings of the Committee

Rule 1

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall hold meetings as may be required for the effective performance of its functions in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").

Regular sessions

Rule 2

1. The Committee shall normally hold two regular sessions annually.

2. Regular sessions of the Committee shall be convened at dates decided by the Committee in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary-General"), taking into account the calendar of conferences as approved by the General Assembly.

Special sessions

Rule 3

1. Special sessions of the Committee shall be convened by decision of the Committee. When the Committee is not in session, the Chairperson may convene special sessions of the Committee in consultation with the other officers of the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee shall also convene special sessions:

(a) At the request of a majority of the members of the Committee;

(b) At the request of a State party to the Convention.

2. Special sessions shall be convened as soon as possible at a date fixed by the Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary-General and with the other officers of the Committee, taking into account the calendar of conferences as approved by the General Assembly.

Place of sessions

Rule 4

Sessions of the Committee shall normally be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Another place for a session may be designated by the Committee in consultation with the Secretary-General, taking into account the relevant rules of the United Nations on the subject.

Notification of opening date of sessions

Rule 5

The Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Committee of the date and place of the first meeting of each session. Such notification shall be sent, in the case of regular sessions, at least six weeks in advance, and in the case of a special session, at least three weeks in advance of the first meeting.

II. AGENDA

Provisional agenda for regular sessions

Rule 6

The provisional agenda for each regular session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention, and shall include:

(a) Any item decided upon by the Committee at a previous session;

(b) Any item proposed by the Chairperson of the Committee;

(c) Any item proposed by a member of the Committee;

(d) Any item proposed by a State party to the Convention;

(e) Any item proposed by the Secretary-General relating to his functions under the Convention or these rules.

Provisional agenda for special sessions

Rule 7

The provisional agenda for a special session of the Committee shall consist only of those items which were proposed for its consideration at the special session.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 8

The first item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of the officers when required under rule 16 of these rules.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 9

During a regular session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items. Only urgent or important items may be added to the agenda.

Transmission of the provisional agenda and basic documents

Rule 10

The provisional agenda and basic documents relating to items appearing thereon shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee by the Secretary-General as early as possible, and whenever possible simultaneously with the notification of the opening of a session under rule 5.

III. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Members

Rule 11

Members of the Committee shall be the 10 independent experts elected in accordance with article 43 of the Convention.

Term of office

Rule 12

The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if renominated.

Beginning of term of office

Rule 13

The members of the Committee elected at the first election shall begin their term of office on 1 March 1991. In the case of members elected at subsequent elections, their term of office shall begin on the day following the date of expiry of the term of office of the members whom they replace.

Filling of casual vacancies

Rule 14

1. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform his or her Committee duties, the Chairperson of the Committee shall notify the Secretary-General who shall then declare the seat of that member to be vacant.

2. If, in the unanimous opinion of the other members, a member of the Committee has ceased to carry out his or her functions for any cause other than absence of a temporary nature, the Chairperson of the Committee shall notify the Secretary-General, who shall then declare the seat of that member to be vacant.

3. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this rule, the Secretary-General shall request the State party which had nominated that member to appoint another expert from among its nationals within two months to serve for the remainder of his or her predecessor's term.

4. The name and the curriculum vitae of the expert so appointed shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee for approval by secret ballot. Upon approval of the expert by the Committee, the Secretary-General shall notify the States parties to the Convention of the name of the member of the Committee filling a casual vacancy.

5. Except in the case of a vacancy arising from a member's death or proven disability, the Secretary-General and the Committee shall act in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this rule only after receiving from the member concerned written notification of his or her decision to cease to function as a member of the Committee.

Solemn declaration

Rule 15

Upon assuming his or her duties, each member of the Committee shall make the following solemn declaration in open Committee:

"I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

IV. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 16

The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Term of office

Rule 17

The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years. They shall be eligible for re-election. None of them, however, may hold office if he or she ceases to be a member of the Committee.

Position of the Chairperson in relation to the Committee

Rule 18

The Chairperson shall perform the functions conferred upon him or her by the Convention and by these rules of procedure. In exercising his or her functions, the Chairperson shall remain under the authority of the Committee.

Acting Chairperson

Rule 19

If the Chairperson is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, he or she shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons to act in his or her place. In the absence of such a designation, one of the Vice-Chairpersons will act as Chairperson in his or her place.

Powers and duties of the Acting Chairperson

Rule 20

A Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

Replacement of officers

Rule 21

If any of the officers of the Committee ceases, or declares his or her inability, to continue serving as an officer of the Committee, a new officer shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

V. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 22

1. The secretariat of the Committee and of such subsidiary bodies as may be established by the Committee under rule 63 shall be provided by the Secretary-General.

2. The Secretary-General shall provide the Committee with the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention.

Statements

Rule 23

The Secretary-General or his representative shall be present at all sessions of the Committee. Subject to rule 39, the Secretary-General or his representative may make oral or written statements at meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

Servicing of meetings

Rule 24

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Keeping the members informed

Rule 25

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for keeping the members of the Committee informed of any questions which may be brought before it for consideration or of any other developments that may be of relevance to the Committee.

Financial implications of proposals

Rule 26

Before any proposal which involves expenditures is approved by the Committee or by its subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General shall prepare and circulate to its members, as early as possible, an estimate of the cost involved in the proposal. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to draw the attention of the members to this estimate and to invite discussion on it when the proposal is considered by the Committee or by a subsidiary body.

VI. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 27

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Committee.

Interpretation from an official language

Rule 28

Statements made in any of the official languages shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

Interpretation from an unofficial language

Rule 29

Any person addressing the Committee and using a language other than one of the official languages shall provide for interpretation into and from one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other official languages by interpreters of the secretariat shall be based upon the interpretation given in the first working language.

Languages of records

Rule 30

Summary records of the meetings of the Committee shall be drawn up in the working languages and any of them may be issued in the other official languages upon decision of the Committee.

Languages of decisions and official documents

Rule 31

All decisions of the Committee shall be made available in the official languages. All official documents of the Committee shall be issued in the working languages and any of them may be issued in the other official languages upon decision of the Committee.

VII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Public and private meetings

Rule 32

The meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Issue of communiqués concerning private meetings

Rule 33

At the close of each private meeting, the Committee or its subsidiary bodies may issue a communiqué, through the Secretary-General, for the use of the information media and the general public.

Participation in meetings

Rule 34

1. In conformity with article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, representatives of the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. Representatives of the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs may participate in private meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, when invited by the Committee to do so.

2. Representatives of other competent bodies concerned, which are not included among those in paragraph 1 of this rule, may participate in public or private meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, when invited by the Committee to do so.

VIII. RECORDS

Correction of summary records

Rule 35

Summary records of the public and private meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the secretariat. They shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Committee and to any other participants in the meetings.

All such participants may, within three working days of the receipt of such records, submit corrections to the secretariat in the languages in which the records have been issued. Corrections to the records of the meetings shall be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued at the end of the session concerned. Any disagreement concerning such corrections shall be decided upon by the Chairperson of the Committee or, in the case of continued disagreement, by decision of the Committee.

Distribution of summary records

Rule 36

1. The summary records of public meetings shall be documents for general distribution.

2. The summary records of private meetings shall be distributed to the members of the Committee and to other participants in the meetings. They may be made available to others upon decision of the Committee at such time and under such conditions as the Committee may decide.

IX. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS AND OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Distribution of official documents

Rule 37

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of rule 36 and subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this rule, reports, decisions and all other official documents of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be documents for general distribution, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

2. Reports and information furnished to the Committee by the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, or other United Nations organs and competent bodies pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention and to rule 70 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all members of the Committee and, if so decided by the Committee, to members of its subsidiary bodies, States parties concerned and other participants at the meetings. Such reports and information shall normally be made available to the Committee in the language in which they have been submitted, unless otherwise decided by the Committee or the Chairperson.

3. Reports and additional information submitted by States parties pursuant to article 44 of the Convention and to rules 66 and 69 shall be documents for general distribution.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 38

Six members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Powers of the Chairperson

Rule 39

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the Chairperson by the Convention and elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions.

2. The Chairperson, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Committee and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

3. In the course of the discussion of an item, the Chairperson may propose to the Committee a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each person may speak on any question, and the closure of the list of speakers.

4. The Chairperson shall rule on points of order.

5. The Chairperson may also propose adjournment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a meeting. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Committee, and the Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Points of order

Rule 40

During the discussion of any matter, a member may, at any time, raise a point of order, and such point of order shall immediately be decided upon by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules of procedure. Any appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson shall immediately be put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairperson shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present. A member raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time limitation

Rule 41

The Committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker on any question. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds his or her allotted time, the Chairperson shall call him or her to order without delay.

List of speakers

Rule 42

During the course of a debate, the Chairperson may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. The Chairperson may, however, accord the right of reply to any speaker if a speech delivered after he or she has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the Chairperson shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by consent of the Committee.

Suspension or adjournment of meetings

Rule 43

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall immediately be put to the vote.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 44

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move for the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the person who proposed the motion, one member may speak in favour and one against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 45

A member may, at any time, move for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other member or representative had signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two members opposing the closure, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 46

Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Submission of proposals

Rule 47

Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, substantive proposals, amendments and motions submitted by the members shall be introduced in writing

and handed to the secretariat and their consideration shall, if so requested by any member, be deferred until the next meeting on a following day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 48

Subject to rule 46, any motion by a member calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall immediately be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 49

A motion may be withdrawn by the member who proposed it at any time before voting upon it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 50

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Committee, by a two-thirds majority of its members present, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two members in favour of and two members in opposition to the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

XI. VOTING

Voting rights

Rule 51

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

Adoption of decisions

Rule 52 1/

Except as otherwise provided in the Convention and elsewhere in these rules, decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority of the members present.

1/ The members of the Committee expressed the view that its method of work should normally allow for attempts to reach decisions by consensus before voting, provided that the Convention and the rules of procedure were observed.

Equally divided votes

Rule 53

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Method of voting

Rule 54

Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, and subject to rules 14 and 60, the Committee shall vote by a show of hands. Any member may request a roll-call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members of the Committee, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairperson.

Roll-call votes

Rule 55

The vote of each member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

Conduct during voting and explanation of votes

Rule 56

After the voting has commenced, there shall be no interruption of the voting except on a point of order by a member in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairperson before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Division of proposals

Rule 57

Parts of a proposal shall be voted upon separately if a member requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all of the operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 58

1. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted upon first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

2. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 59

1. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Committee shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote upon the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted.

2. The Committee may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote upon the next proposal.

3. Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before those proposals.

XII. ELECTIONS

Method of elections

Rule 60

Elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of elections to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

Conduct of elections when only one elective place is to be filled

Rule 61

1. When only one person or member is to be elected and no candidate in the first ballot obtains the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes.

2. If the second ballot is inconclusive and a majority vote of members is required, a third ballot shall be taken in which votes may be cast for any eligible candidate. If the third ballot is inconclusive, the next ballot shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third ballot and so on, with unrestricted and restricted ballots alternating until a person or member is elected.

3. If the second ballot is inconclusive and a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures the necessary two-thirds majority. In the next three ballots, votes may be cast for any eligible candidates. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third such unrestricted ballot. The following three ballots shall be unrestricted, and so on, until a person or member is elected.

Conduct of elections when two or more elective places are to be filled

Rule 62

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining the majority required in the first ballot shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting then shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible candidates. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtain the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. The following three ballots shall be unrestricted, and so on, until all the places have been filled.

XIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Rule 63

1. The Committee may, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and subject to the provisions of rule 26 whenever applicable, set up such subcommittees and other ad hoc subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary and define their composition and mandates.

2. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own officers and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Failing the adoption of such rules, the present rules of procedure shall apply mutatis mutandis.

XIV. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reports to the General Assembly

Rule 64

The Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, every two years reports on its activities under the Convention and may submit such other reports as it considers appropriate.

Other reports

Rule 65

The Committee, or its subsidiary bodies, may issue for general distribution other reports on its activities. The Committee may also issue reports for general distribution in order to highlight specific problems in the field of the rights of the child.

PART TWO. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

XV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLES 44 AND 45 OF THE CONVENTION

Submission of reports by States parties

Rule 66

1. States parties shall submit reports, through the Secretary-General, pursuant to article 44 of the Convention.

2. States parties shall submit such reports within two years after the entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned and thereafter they shall submit subsequent reports every five years and such additional reports or information in the intervening period as the Committee may request.

3. The Committee, through the Secretary-General, shall indicate to the States parties the form and contents of reports or information to be supplied to the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this rule.

Non-submission of reports

Rule 67

1. At each session, the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of all cases of non-submission of reports or additional information under article 44 of the Convention and rule 66 of these rules. In such cases, the Committee shall transmit to the State party concerned, through the Secretary-General, a reminder concerning the submission of such report or additional information and undertake any other efforts in a spirit of dialogue between the State concerned and the Committee.

2. If, even after the reminder and other efforts referred to in paragraph 1 of this rule, the State party does not submit the required report or additional information, the Committee shall consider the situation as it deems necessary and shall include a reference to this effect in its report to the General Assembly.

Attendance by States parties at the examination of reports

Rule 68

The Committee, through the Secretary-General, shall notify the States parties, as early as possible, of the opening date, duration and place of the session at which their respective reports will be examined. Representatives of the States parties shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined. The Committee may also inform a State party from which it decides to seek additional information that the State party may authorize its representative to be present at a specified meeting; such representative should be able to answer questions which may be put to him or her by the Committee and make statements on reports already submitted by his or her State, and may also submit further information from his or her State.

Request for additional reports or information

Rule 69

If, in the opinion of the Committee, a report submitted by a State party pursuant to article 44 of the Convention does not contain sufficient information, the Committee may request that State to furnish an additional report or additional information, indicating the time-limit within which such additional report or information should be supplied.

Request for other reports or advice

Rule 70

1. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs, pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, to submit to it reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

2. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies, as it may consider appropriate, to provide it with expert advice, pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within their respective mandates.

3. The Committee may indicate, as appropriate, the time-limit within which such reports or advice should be supplied to the Committee.

Suggestions and general recommendations on a State party's report

Rule 71

1. After its consideration of each report of a State party, together with such reports, information or advice, if any, received pursuant to article 44 and article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, the Committee may make such suggestions and general recommendations on the implementation of the Convention by the reporting State as it may consider appropriate.

2. The Committee shall transmit, through the Secretary-General, suggestions and general recommendations it has decided upon to the State party concerned for its comments. The Committee may, where necessary, indicate the time-limit within which such comments from States parties are to be received.

3. The Committee shall include in its reports to the General Assembly suggestions and general recommendations together with comments, if any, received from States parties.

Other general recommendations

Rule 72

1. The Committee may make other general recommendations based on information received pursuant to articles 44 and 45 of the Convention.

2. The Committee shall include such other general recommendations in its reports to the General Assembly together with comments, if any, received from States parties.

General comments on the Convention

Rule 73

1. The Committee may prepare general comments based on the articles and provisions of the Convention with a view to promoting its further implementation and assisting States parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations.

2. The Committee shall include such general comments in its reports to the General Assembly.

Transmission of States parties' reports that contain a request or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance

Rule 74

1. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies reports and information received from States parties that contain a request or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance.

2. The reports and information received from States parties in accordance with paragraph 1 of this rule shall be transmitted along with observations and suggestions, if any, of the Committee on these requests or indications.

3. The Committee may request, when it considers it appropriate to do so, information on the technical advice or assistance provided and the progress achieved.

XVI. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Rule 75

In order to enhance a deeper understanding of the content and implications of the Convention, the Committee may devote one or more meetings of its regular sessions to a general discussion on one specific article of the Convention or related subject.

XVII. REQUESTS FOR STUDIES

Studies

Rule 76

1. As provided in article 45, subparagraph (c), of the Convention, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child.

2. The Committee may also invite the submission of studies from other bodies on topics of relevance to the Committee.

PART THREE. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

XVIII. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

Headings

Rule 77

For the purpose of the interpretation of these rules, the headings, which were inserted for reference purposes only, shall be disregarded.

Amendments

Rule 78

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Committee, without prejudice to the relevant provisions of the Convention.